

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 120425Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2954

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 9657

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, CB

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT ON GKR POW CAMP AT KOH KONG

1. FOLLOWING MONTHS OF STALLING PRINCIPALLY OVER WHO SHOULD FURNISH GUARDS, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE POW CAMP WILL SHORTLY BE PUT INTO OPERATION. NEW GENDARMERIE NATIONAL COMMANDER HEM SAVETH HAS DETAILED 120 MEN TO SERVE AS GUARDS AT GKR KOH KONG POW CAMP LOCATED ON SEA-COAST NEAR THE THAI BORDER. ONE HUNDRED GUARDS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE AND THE REMAINING TWENTY ARE DUE TO ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 13.

2. POW CAMP CAMMANDER MAJ. SOK RODEN, WHO HAS LONG BEEN PRODDING HIS SUPERIORS TO MAKE GUARDS AVAILABLE, WILL PUT THEM THROUGH TWO-WEEK TRAINING PERIOD DESIGNED TO HELP ENSURE THAT POWS WILL BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE
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WITH GENEVA CONVENTION. RODEN HAS BEEN IN CONTINUING

CONTACT WITH ICRC PERMREP PEREZ, AND WE ANTICIPATE
GENERALLY COOPERATIVE GKR RESPONSE TO ICRC SUGGESTIONS
AND INITIATIVES.

3. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR MOVING PRISONERS FROM THEIR
PRESENT LOCATIONS BY KHMER AIR FORCE PLANE TO KOH KONG
IN EARLY OCTOBER. EMBOFF WILL VISIT CAMP BOTH PRIOR
TO AND FOLLOWING POWS' ARRIVAL. ICRC'S PEREZ EXPECTED
TO VISIT CAMP AFTER POWS ARRIVE.

4. WE ARE URGING GKR OFFICIALS TO PREPARE ADVANCE PRESS
POLICY IN ORDER ANTICIPATE NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS AND, TO
EXTENT POSSIBLE, GAIN FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR KR'S ADHER-
ENCE TO GENEVA CONVENTION. EMBASSY INTENDS FOLLOW CLOSELY
DEVELOPMENTS AT KOH KONG POW CAMP.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM09657
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ENDERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730940/aaaabdbm.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOVEMENT ON GKR POW CAMP AT KOH KONG
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005